

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Letter dated December 8, 2005. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claims 19 through 22 have been previously cancelled. The application now includes claims 1 through 18, with claims 1, 12, 15 and 16 being independent claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Letter, the Examiner stated that the application contained claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: Directed to a mounting device with inner structure and drawn to claims 1 through 7 and 15 (Fig. 2);

Species II: Directed to a mounting device with outer structure and drawn to claims 8 through 11 and 16 (Fig. 4); and

Species III: Directed to a mounting device with a plug of resilient material and drawn to claims 12 through 14 (Fig. 6.)

The Examiner further stated that the applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner also advised the applicants that a reply to the Official Letter must include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not include currently pending claims 17 and 18, which are dependent upon claim 16, in the list of species shown above. Applicants are confused by the statement that Species I, which includes independent claim 1, is directed to a mounting device with an inner structure when claim 1 clearly recites an outer supporting structure. Applicants also are confused that the Examiner has assigned independent claim 1 to Species I and claims 8 through 11, which are dependent upon claim 1, to Species II. Nevertheless, applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite a layer of resilient material disposed within and attached to an outer structure with the resilient material being adapted to be placed in proximity to a control unit. Applicants have also amended independent claim 16 to recite a one piece outer supporting structure and an electronic control unit disposed in proximity to

a layer of resilient material disposed within the outer supporting structure. Applicants believe that amended independent claims 1 and 16 may be read upon the mounting devices shown in either Fig. 2 or Fig. 4. Accordingly, applicants believe that the following species of the invention are present:

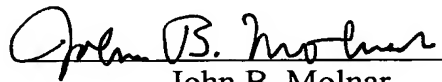
Species I: Directed to a mounting device with an outer structure and drawn to claims 1 through 11 and 15 through 18; and

Species II: Directed to a mounting device with a plug of resilient material and drawn to claims 12 through 14.

Based upon the above analysis, applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Species I, directed to a mounting device with an outer structure and drawn to claims 1 through 11 and 15 through 18.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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